

I can say there is a high probability, and if I had one more afternoon to go talk to a couple of Senators on that committee, I would predict with certainty—but I can say with almost certainty that the subcommittee of the Senate on Labor-Health and Human Services will appropriate more money in education than the President put in his budget. When you combine what they are going to give, it will be more than the President's.

Is it going to have every single item in it? I do not know. In fact, before we vote on the final determination of education funding, the Senate will debate the issue on an appropriations bill which I have just described which will have more funding in it than the President's. We will probably decide in a floor fight on this floor how that education program should be structured. I think the occupant of the chair knows that Republicans have been working very hard at loosening up this money from the strings and rigidities of Washington into something that will go local schools in a looser fashion, from which we can get accountability and flexibility. We give flexibility and we expect accountability. It will not be all the line items the President wants, but it will be more money than the President requested.

So I do not know what we are voting about in these resolutions. They are premature. The only guidance we have is the budget resolution that Republicans voted for and which said that of the domestic programs, there are a number of priorities but the highest one is education. The Senator occupying the chair voted for that resolution. In fact, it said we should appropriate, over the next 5 years, in excess of \$28 billion—\$26 or \$28 billion more than we had been appropriating regularly under the President's approach. Over 10 years, it should be somewhere around \$85 billion or \$90 billion more. That is the only direction and guidance we have.

That is not binding. But if ever there was something you know you are going to do when you pass a budget resolution, it is this because the American people think it is right. But the American people do not think we are making headway with the existing education programs. They would be thrilled if we gave more money and did it differently. Why should we be doing it the same old way which we have been doing it, which has no accountability and is all targeted whether the schools need it or not? They have to put on the same pair of socks and same shoes in every school district in America. They have to fit into the same shoes in order to get the Federal money, whether they have the problems or not.

Then we have the great program that we call IDEA, where we told them you get started with special education and we will end up paying a substantial portion of it. We did not. We cheated. We made them pay a lot more than they were supposed to after we man-

dated it. Under Republican leadership, we are putting more and more money into that program for special education because we told them to do it, and we said we would pay a certain percent and we never came close. We keep putting more in than the President. The President complains about some targeted program we do not fund, but we fund IDEA and it loosens up money the States would otherwise have to spend for a program that we mandated, that we never lived up to our commitment on, and that is pretty good and we probably will do that this year, provide more funding than the President asked for.

So I don't know, when this 5:30 vote comes, what we are voting on. I think we ought to put them both off and let's see what the appropriations subcommittee does. But if we do not, I can say I don't know why anybody would vote for the Daschle resolution. It is a statement of unreality. It is a statement of hypotheticals. It is a statement of: Here is how much money they have to spend in that subcommittee, so I am going to do some arithmetic and assume everything is going to get cut 17 percent. That is about where the 17-percent number comes from, but it does not mean anything because nobody suggests that all the money Labor-Health and Human Services gets is going to be divided the way any Senator currently thinks it should be. It is going to be done by a committee that has been doing it for many years.

Those are my two thoughts for the day. I have used about 5 minutes on each, and I talked faster than I normally do because I did not want to stay down here too long. Other Senators want to speak. I repeat: If we cannot give the American taxpayers a cut in their taxes when in the past 6½ years the tax take of America, what we have taken from the taxpayers, is up 58 percent—got it?—the tax receipts of America in the last 6 years 9 months is up 58 percent. The average check increase for American working people is up 11 percent, and the cumulative increase of Government annually over 7 years—6 years 9 months—is 22.

Who was cut short? A 58-percent tax increase, 22-percent growth in Government, 11-percent growth in the paychecks of Americans. They need some of their money back. That is what that issue is about. If not now, when? On education, wait and see. We will do better than the President. It will be hard to convince the President, and he will have something to say about it. We ought to put up a nice big board and add up the numbers when we are finished with appropriations. We will do better than he did.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the

body in two parts: one for an initial 1 minute and the second for the remaining 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Is the Senator requesting he have the time until 3:30?

Mr. JOHNSON. It is my understanding that 3:30 is the scheduled time to commence debate on the education resolutions; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. So I have until 3:30?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. I ask unanimous consent, then, to consume the remainder of the time available until 3:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A WISE MOVE

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, first I will speak in response to what I regard as the commonsense statesmanship demonstrated on the part of the President with his veto of the Republican tax bill. There is an acknowledgment that there is around \$1 trillion that could come into the Treasury over the next 10 years, over and above that required for Social Security.

It was wise on the President's part to say, first of all, we ought to be very prudent about whether that trillion dollars will actually materialize or not. It is based on assumptions that may or may not come true. If they do come true, we should prolong the life of Medicare and pay down existing debt.

Everywhere I go in South Dakota people of both political stripes tell me: Pay down the debt, keep interest rates down, make our economy grow, and if you still have dollars left, make key investments in education, in economic development, child care and health care, and then if there are some resources remaining, do give some tax relief.

The President has submitted a request for \$250 million targeted to middle-class and working families, the families that need it most. I believe that veto is a wise move. We ought to go on to a negotiated end to this budget dilemma that will be bipartisan in nature and will be much more deliberative, much more thoughtful, and much wiser about how to use \$1 trillion that may or may not materialize.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG FAIRNESS FOR SENIORS ACT OF 1999

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, the second issue I want to talk about this afternoon is the issue of prescription drug costs. I am going to have to edit my remarks due to time constraints more than I really prefer, but I do want to talk about the prescription drug costs we face in this Nation.

American seniors 65 or older make up only 12 percent of our population but consume, understandably, 35 percent of all prescription drugs. Studies have